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Review

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'Stanford's Compendium of Geography and Travel: Central and South America.' Vol. 2. 'Central America and West Indies.' By A. H. Keane; edited by Sir C. R. Markham. (London: Stanford. 1911. Pp. xxvi., 496. *Map and Illustrations*. 15s.) Such revision as has been necessitated in this new issue has been ably supplied. In the direction of geographical research, not much was called for; the work has lain rather in the direction of political and economic affairs.

'Salvador of the Twentieth Century.' By P. F. Martin. (London: Arnold. 1911. Pp. xv., 328. *Map and Illustrations*. 15s.) This is a detailed survey of the republic of Salvador, chiefly on historical and economic lines. In the later chapters, however, the country is described in some detail, department by department, with reference to soil, climate, and other physical conditions bearing on the economic conditions and possibilities of the various districts. The map is good; being on a scale of some 15 miles to the inch, it is able to show not only the railways, but the main roads, and the relief is well executed. The author has very strong views on the position of British trade in relation to foreign competition in Salvador.

'Picturesque Paraguay.' By A. K. Macdonald. (London: Kelly. 1911. Pp. 498. *Illustrations*. 16s.) In the now extensive literature on South America there was room for a volume on Paraguay, and the present is a comprehensive work. If it fails, however, to leave a distinct impression in any particular department it is in that of picturing the country itself from the physical standpoint. The chapter specifically devoted to this topic is very brief and dismissed almost to the last. But the life and economic conditions of the country are treated in high detail and well illustrated.

'Argentine Plains and Andine Glaciers.' By W. Larden. (London: Fisher Unwin. 1911. Pp. 320. *Map and Illustrations*. 14s. net.) This book is avowedly a personal narrative, but it has added to it a collection of statistics and other details which give it an additional value for reference. It is hardly necessary to state that the writer is a keen observer, and his power in this direction enables him to furnish information of more than usual value on various topics—meteorology, for example, also plant life, animals and insects, especially those which (like the locust) have a direct influence on human activities. A glossary of Argentine expressions is a useful feature.

'Peru of the Twentieth Century.' By P. F. Martin. (London: Arnold. 1911. Pp. xx., 348. *Map and Illustrations*. 15s.) The interest of this book is mainly economic; indeed, it might be questioned if the physical characteristics and description of the country are properly dismissed so lightly as in ten pages. Of the government and administrative arrangements a complete sketch is given, but some two-thirds of the text are devoted to the products, industries, and commercial possibilities of the country, and to subjects akin thereto. The copious and detailed statistics provided in certain sections will need early revision if they are to retain their value.

#### AUSTRALASIA AND PACIFIC ISLANDS.

'My Tropic Isle.' By E. J. Banfield. (London: Unwin. 1911. Pp. 315. *Illustrations*. Price 10s. 6d. net.) Having purchased an island off the Barrier Reef coast of Queensland (Dunk island, as one discovers from a single reference in the book), the author quitted civilization to dwell therein, and these sketches are the outcome. The author is a keen amateur naturalist, and the denizens of the island, after a personal and general introduction, are his chief topic. The

descriptions are charmingly written ; it is hardly an effort to forget the text and to feel the sun in one's face. The book is well got up ; the illustrations especially being of unusual merit.

'The Romance of Australia.' Edited by Herbert Strang. (London : Froude. [N.d.] Pp. xi., 640. *Map and Illustrations*. 6s.) A collection of excerpts on the history and early settlement of Australia has here been added to the 'Romance of the World' series. They are judiciously arranged in four groups, dealing with the search for the southern continent, the early settlers in Australia, the trans-Australian journeys of exploration, and "adventures in the bush." The books from which the excerpts are taken are mostly recognized standard works or classic narratives, and in their original forms do not make the popular appeal (especially to the young) which in this volume they are made to do. Such is the justification for the volume.

'History of Australasia.' By A. W. Jose. (Sydney : Angus & Robertson. 1911. Pp. xiv., 319. *Maps and Illustrations*. 3s. 6d.) The fact that this book has reached a fourth edition shows that it has found a place in the literature of Australasia. In the present issue new chapters have been added on land settlement and the growth of industries in Australia. The chapters have also been in some measure rearranged, and the book is consequently easier to consult on a particular territory.

'Through Polynesia and Papua.' By F. Burnett. (London : Griffiths. 1911. Pp. xv., 197. *Map and Illustrations*. 12s. 6d.) The Society, Cook, and Solomon islands are the chief groups dealt with by this author, in addition to visits to New Zealand, Australia, and Papua. The native races form his principal subject, but flora and fauna claim some attention, in addition to the usual miscellanea of travel ; the book also may be remarked upon for its outspoken criticism of the white man's influence in certain directions in the Pacific, and of a particular department of British administration.

'Islands of Enchantment.' By Florence Coombe. (London : Macmillan. 1911. Pp. xix., 382. *Map and Illustrations*. 12s.) Melanesia is this writer's field. As in the work previously noticed, the native peoples claim most attention, but the point of view is wholly different, and the study of them more intimate. Folk-stories take an important place. A praiseworthy feature of the book, from the geographical standpoint, is provided by the notes on the natural features of the various islands visited, which are given their proper prominence at the opening of each chapter.

## POLAR REGIONS.

### ARCTIC RESEARCHES.

'Campagne Arctique de 1907.' Duc d'Orléans. Bruxelles : Charles Bulens, 1911.

Two parts have appeared of the scientific results of the Duke of Orleans's expedition to the Barents and Kara seas and Novaya Zemlya in 1907. Others presumably are to follow. The first of these parts contains the log of the *Belgica* by her commander, A. de Gerlache, and papers on the meteorology by A. de Gerlache, terrestrial magnetism by A. Nippoldt, and atmospheric electricity by G. Lüdeling, besides a number of admirably reproduced photographs, and two maps, one on a large scale of the Matotchkin Sha in Novaya Zemlya. It is not very clear why an appendix should have been added containing a list of the soundings taken by the Duke of Orleans in 1909 in the Greenland sea, which have no special bearing on this expedition. The second part contains a study of the deep-sea deposits by Prof. J. Thoulet, and a list of the soundings taken.